

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Claims 27-41 remain in the subject patent application. Claims 42-46 are canceled herein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added herein.

II. Response to the Advisory Action

The Advisory Action mailed January 6, 2006 stated that Applicant's response filed on December 13, 2005 failed to place the application in condition for allowance because it did not persuade the examiner that claims 42-46 were allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, claims 42-46 are canceled herein, leaving in the patent application only those claims (claims 27-41) that have been allowed. This amendment is thus an amendment that places the application in condition for allowance.

III. Response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed with the January 6, 2006 Advisory Action stated that certain claims lacked a proper status identifier. The listing of claims provided herewith includes a proper status identifier for each listed claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

All fees that are believed to be due in connection with this paper are submitted herewith. However, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees necessitated by this Response, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 02-4467.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants invite Examiner Vu to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kenneth" being more prominent.

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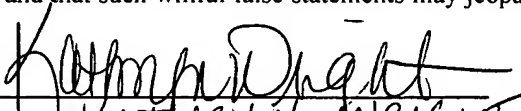
CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10.

I hereby certify that this document (and any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service, mailing label No. **EV497393272US** on **February 6, 2006** and addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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